

## **INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW**

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1. The Marriage Act (1961) is a Federal, not state, law governing all marriages in Australia. State laws on this are invalid and irrelevant.
2. Any significant changes must be submitted to the people by way of referenda, rather than very limited opinion polls. The "squeaky wheel" syndrome should be thus eliminated.
3. Most, if not all, religions regard marriage as heterosexual.
4. All children need both father and mother in a stable relationship in marriage for full parenting and appropriate sexual identity.
5. There are many situations in life where each of us is in some way ineligible to participate. Ineligibility is not inequality. Equality in all life experiences is not a basic right, nor is it possible. Some other name should be used for committed same sex relationships.
6. Such initial legislation paves the way for eventual compulsion for Ministers of Religion to celebrate same-sex marriages at the expense of their faith position. This is completely unacceptable.
7. The Christian position is very clear: According to the Scriptures, marriage is between a man and a woman.